

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the present application. The following amendments are responsive to a telephonic interview with Examiner Andrea Ragonese conducted November 4, 2004 and subsequently on November 11, 2004.

DRAWING AMENDMENTS

FIGURES 5A-E and new FIGURE 7 now illustrates membrane and other figure components with element numbers.

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the specification are provided at Examiner's request solely for making the specification consistent with the amended and new figures. Element numbers have been added to correspond with the element numbers added to the amended and new figures. Applicants therefore respectfully request entry of the specification amendments.

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Claims include canceling dependent claims 3, 8, and 14 and inserting them as elements of their respective base independent claims, *i.e.*, as in currently amended claims 1, 7, and 13. The term "vacuum source" of the Claim 1 preamble has been inserted where requested by the Examiner. Please also note that "vacuum source" also appears in the last element of Claim 1. Furthermore, the term "lattice-work formation" has been inserted into the claim elements of the currently amended independent and dependent claims as requested by the Examiner.

Applicants respectfully request entry of the proposed claim amendments to move the application to allowance and eventual issuance.

BLACK LOWE & GRAHAM^{LLC}**25315**

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- 11 -

IN03-1-1002Examiner Amendment

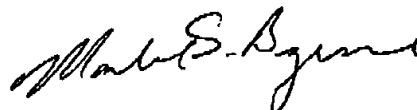
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CONCLUSION

Applicants request reconsideration of claims 1-20 as currently amended. A Notice of Allowance is now therefore earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

BLACK LOWE & GRAHAM^{PLLC}



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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING

I hereby certify that this communication is being facsimile transmitted to Examiner Andrea Ragonese of the USPTO at (703) 746-8774 on the date shown below.

November 11, 2004
Date of Deposit


Myla Kent**25315**

CUSTOMER NUMBER

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TNS-1-1002 Examiner Acknowledgment

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